

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 20, 2008**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Yolanda Gutierrez-Castro was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable William Q. Hayes to serve 148 months in custody based upon her conviction for one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and one count of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Gutierrez-Castro was convicted after a jury trial on July 6, 2007.

According to evidence presented at trial, Gutierrez-Castro was arrested on March 6, 2007, at the Highway 86 Checkpoint near Westmorland, California, as the driver of a Honda Odyssey. A close inspection of the vehicle by U.S. Border Patrol agents resulted in the discovery and seizure of 24 packages of cocaine in a hidden compartment located in the roof of the van. The cocaine had a net weight of approximately 29.85 kilograms (65.80 pounds).

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 07cr0677-WQH**

Yolanda Gutierrez-Castro

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Counts: 2

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841, 846 – (Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine)

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) (Possession of Cocaine with the Intent to Distribute)

**AGENCIES**

United States Border Patrol

Drug Enforcement Administration